

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 28,2007

Council meeting: October 14, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: September 18, 2009

Subject: Authorization to Award Contract for Forest Lake/Columbus – Minneapolis Transit Service

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures - Procurement of Goods and Services Over \$250,000

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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with First Transit Inc. to provide peak express coach bus service from Forest Lake and Columbus to downtown Minneapolis from November 9, 2009 to October 31, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$2,782,756.

Background

The current contract for operation of the Forest Lake/Columbus – Minneapolis Transit Service express coach bus service ends December 31, 2009. The service was originally implemented in response to the 35W bridge collapse with temporary federal congestion mitigation dollars. The express service proved to be successful and the cities of Forest Lake and Columbus agreed to pay the Regional Transit Capital (RTC) levy to support regional transit service. Currently, the Council leases bus from the service provider to deliver the service and pays the lease cost through the hourly operating rate. Under the new agreement, the Council will use new MCI coach style buses purchased with Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) funds.

Rationale

A request for proposals was posted in the State Register, Passenger Transport magazine and on the Council's website. Three proposals were received and evaluated by a five-member evaluation panel consisting of MTS staff, Metro Transit Service Development staff and the Columbus city administrator. The panel evaluated the proposals on the following criteria: experience; size and scope of experience related to the required service; driver training and selection; management, administrative, financial, and technical capabilities; vehicle maintenance practices; reporting capabilities; compliance with RFP requirements; and cost.

The evaluation panel evaluated and ranked all technical proposals, deeming all three proposers qualified. The panel then evaluated the cost proposals.

The results of the cost evaluation are as follows.

Proposing Firm	Weighted Total 5-Year Cost	Average 5-year Base Rate
First Transit Inc.	\$ 2,531,015	\$164.79
Lorenz Bus Inc.	\$ 3,228,077	\$209.27
Voigt's Bus Companies	\$ 3,259,849	\$212.58

The Evaluation Panel concluded that the proposal submitted by First Transit Inc. with both a high technical ranking and lowest proposed cost is the most advantageous to the Council. The First Transit Inc. proposal rated high in proposer experience, reporting capabilities and compliance with the RFP requirements.

Funding

Staff estimated a five-year average base rate of \$169.89 based on existing contracts and 3% annual inflation. The staff cost estimate for this service aligns with the recommended bidder's pricing and is fully budgeted in the 2009 approved and 2010 proposed operating budgets.

The requested not to exceed contract amount of \$2,782,756 allows for a 20 % increase in service hours compared to the base scope of work valued at \$2,531,015. This strategy allows the Council to competitively procure a potential scope increase over the five-year life of the contract.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.